

State Library of North Carolina

UPDATE

<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us>

March 2003

Meet the Voices of the State Library



*Standing (left to right): Vicki Wheeler, Connie Hughes, Carmella Leach.
Seated (left to right): Lorice Hyman, Marilyn Johns.*

When you call the State Library Administration or Library Development sections, you are greeted by one of our friendly support staff. We thought you'd like to see the faces that go with those voices.

Connie Hughes has worked at the State Library since 1977. She is the administrative assistant to State Librarian Sandy Cooper.

Lorice Hyman, the Office Manager for Library Development, started working at the State Library in 1987. In addition to supervising support staff, Lorice keeps the paper trail moving.

Marilyn Johns has been with the State Library since March, 2001. One of her jobs is to support the Center for the Book programs, which means she ships and receives thousands of books each year. She also assists with Quiz Bowl and the Summer Reading Program.

Carmella Leach, the main receptionist, is the newest member of the team. She started in February, 2003. In addition to phone duties, she assists with logistical arrangements for training workshops sponsored by the State Library.

Vicki Wheeler has been with the State Library since 1980. You may know her as the contact person for our OCLC Selective User program.



North Carolina Center for the Book

Since 1995, the North Carolina Center for the Book has been the state sponsor for *Letters About Literature*, an annual national essay

contest that invites students to write to an author (living or dead) explaining how that author's book changed the student's way of thinking about the world. The national sponsor is the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in association with the Weekly Reader Corporation. *Letters About Literature* is in its 20th year.

Of the 32,264 letters submitted this year to the national contest, there were 2,030 entries from North Carolina students!!!

Only Illinois and California had more entries than North Carolina. The national project office selected 90 North Carolina semi-finalists for further judging by the North Carolina Center for the Book. In each level, North Carolina Poet Laureate Fred Chappell selected the winner from among the three finalists. Mr. Chappell said of the entries he read, "Each of (the letters) embodies a virtue hard to come by in adult readers, the willingness to let a book work upon one's mind and spirit. But these young folk go at a book wholeheartedly and it shows in every sentence they have written in these pages."

The North Carolina Center for the Book awards a \$100 cash prize to the state winner and \$50 each to the two finalists in all three levels. This year's state winners have advanced to the national level to be considered for the national prize of \$500. National winners will be announced in early April.

Excerpts from the 2003 winning letters

Level I (grades 4-6) Daniel Vann
Grade 5, Dana Elementary School, Hendersonville

Dear Ms. DiCamillo,

*When I read the book (**Because of Winn-Dixie**), I felt like as if I had a connection with it. The connection I had with the book is that me and Opal have the same problems. Your book really helped me and my father have a good beginning on our relationship. As the story went on, I saw that Opal spent time together. I saw what she did, so I did the same to my dad. I talked to him about things that let him know that I loved him. Wow, I'm so happy that I read your book! If I hadn't, me and my dad would sit in a room not noticing each other for a day. All I can say is thanks for you have changed my life forever.*

Level II (grades 7-8) Sam Louis Taylor
Grade 8, P. S. Jones Middle School, Washington

Dear Ms. Lee,

*Your book, **To Kill a Mockingbird**, was incredibly inspirational to me because it changed my outlook on prejudice in our modern society and made me realize the prejudices within myself. It was truly an eye opener... Another prejudice that I have noticed is the prejudice against Islamic/Arabic-Americans in our country as well as the world since September 11th. At first I supported the raids and vandalism of suspected al-Qaida mosques, but then I read your book and realized that the persecution of people without the proper facts is wrong, even in the case of September 11th.*

Level III (grades 9-12) Virginia Alldredge
Grade 11, The Asheville School, Asheville

Dear Mr. Irving,

*In my life, a strict line has always been drawn between good and evil. There was no allowance for consideration concerning the person's scenario, the belief was simply, there were things that were wrong to do, and if a person indulged themselves with these things, they were sinful, without doubt. Your book, **The Cider House Rules** caused me to question this strict method of examining actions.*

I recognize that I am have only lived for seventeen years. I am not fit to place judgment on people who have gone through trials that I have not dreamt about in my worst nightmares. All I can do is my best to be the finest possible form of myself.

Youth Services

With Quiz Bowl competitions taking place across the state and the build-up to Summer Reading, the first quarter of the year is usually a busy one for Youth Services Consultant, Jim Rosinia. This year is no exception.

Public Library Quiz Bowl

Students from 244 high schools across the state participated in Local competitions between Dec. 2002 and February 15, 2003. The winners of those competitions went on to participate in nine District competitions on March 22 and the victors of those 9 matches (listed at <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/QB/quizbowl.htm>>) will advance to the State Finals which will be held on Saturday, April 26. As in years past, the Finals will be held at the WUNC-TV studios in Research

Triangle Park and will, once again, be broadcast live from 1 to 3 p.m. The success of all Quiz Bowl competitions depends on the quality of questions asked and now you, too, can contribute questions to the database using an online form. Just go to <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/Forms/qbowl.htm>> and fill in the form.

Statewide Summer Reading Program

The materials for the 2003 Program, "Mission: R.E.A.D. (Reading - Exploration, Adventure, Discovery)" have been getting rave reviews from youth services librarians, thanks to the fabulous artwork of Chris Loyd. The items have been shipped to libraries across the state and two workshops were held for youth services librarians. On March 3rd, 124 librarians attended the workshop in Raleigh and, on March 17th, 86 librarians attended the session in Hickory. The format of the workshops was a bit different this year and participants had an opportunity to share techniques for coping with common problems and to trade ideas and information about available resources—a format change that received high marks on participant evaluation forms.

For the summer of 2004, North Carolina will become the 18th state to join the Collaborative Summer Library Program. The theme for 2004 will be "Trails of Discovery @ Your Library."

New Resources on the Web

Through the Youth Services pages of the State Library web site, Rosinia has improved access to resources of use to youth services librarians.

The "Performers Directory," once just a part of the Summer Reading Manual, is now available via the web for librarians developing programs <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/PerfDir.htm>>. Since it's web-based, it will be much easier to update and will facilitate the process of emailing performers and linking to their web sites.

Another web page, "Making the Case for Library Services to Children and Teens" <<http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/ld/youth/case.htm>>, includes links to a wide variety of resources containing a wealth of statistical and research information about youth, library services to youth, and the power of summer reading programs.

Genealogical Services

The genealogy bug has even bitten Hollywood (yes, California). Among the 782 visitors to Genealogical Services in October was a researcher who in his "other" life was the musical voice for Tony in the movie production of *West Side Story*.



North Carolina ECHO

North Carolina ECHO ("Exploring Cultural Heritage Online"), the State Library of North Carolina-sponsored access to special collections and digitization project, continues to receive attention from around the state and beyond. The digitization program for Missouri, "Virtually Missouri," invited Kevin Cherry, former project manager for NC ECHO and now visiting instructor at East Carolina University, to present an overview of NC ECHO at that state's annual digitization conference in February. Representatives of the Missouri program held up NC ECHO as a model (highly complimentary of its comprehensive nature) and several conference participants noted how they had used individual digitization projects found on NC ECHO's web portal to help develop their own projects. Due to the reception of NC ECHO at the Missouri conference, Cherry was asked to attend and represent NC ECHO at the Arizona Convocation, a statewide annual conference of cultural heritage organizations.

NC ECHO was also a recurring theme during the recent special meeting of the Society of North Carolina Archivists, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, the governing body for North Carolina's state-sponsored public history activities. NC ECHO co-sponsored the conference's "collaboration fair," helped with the preconference, and NC ECHO grant-funded projects were the components of multiple papers. NC ECHO activities were also mentioned in many of the other presentations that did not have NC ECHO grant projects as their focus, including the conference's plenary final address, delivered by Duke University Archivist Tim Pyatt. In his speech, Pyatt favorably compared the work of NC ECHO to the important role that the Depression-era Historical Records Survey played in identifying and preserving the records of the state and the distribution of professional archival/preservation activities among North Carolina's many amateur historical groups.

NC ECHO promotes the use of the NC Encoded Archival Description (EAD) Notetab-based template which allows archivists and manuscript librarians to easily build web finding aids according to the EAD Standard. Workshops offered around the state introduce the NC EAD template. Kathy Wisser (NCSU Library Fellow), co-creator of the template, wrote an article

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that will soon appear in *Library Resources & Technical Services*, the official journal of the Association of Library Collections & Technical Services, a division of the American Library Association.

Another tool is the NC ECHO Administrative Metadata database (aka "MAPDI" Project), developed by a committee chaired by Helen Tibbo (professor, UNC-CH). Designed to help small- and mid-sized institutions gather and maintain the information required to preserve their digital objects, this was the subject of an article in the "Conference Proceedings of Museums and the Web" (2003). Available at <www.archimuse.com/mw2003/papers/tibbo/tibbo.html>, the article has generated multiple queries from interested institutions (including the National Library of New Zealand and The Arts and Humanities Data Service at King's College, London), all facing the challenge of managing metadata.

NC ECHO completed site visits and surveys in Guilford County and held a summary meeting of New Hanover County special collections professionals in February. March events include a two-day EAD workshop at NCSU and a week-long Digitization Institute at SILS, UNC-Chapel Hill. Through these continuing education opportunities, NC ECHO helps cultural institutions across the state learn to create online content using accepted standards and procedures that will enable this material to be widely accessible to researchers and general users in both North Carolina and the world. NC ECHO is also trying to help teachers expose their students to primary source material by sponsoring the first of several week-long North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching seminars. Teachers participating in these seminars will use resources available through the NC ECHO web portal <www.ncecho.org> to create curriculum enhancing lesson plans that will be posted on the Learn NC website at <www.learnnc.org> and freely available for public use.

April will find the NC ECHO survey staff down east visiting cultural institutions in the Neuse Regional Library System (Greene, Jones, and Lenoir Counties) and presenting a summary meeting for representatives of institutions in the CPC Regional Library System (Craven, Pamlico, and Carteret Counties).

Check the web portal <www.ncecho.org> for current information on NC ECHO's activities and programs and updates on the sites visited. NC ECHO welcomes input from library professionals and other interested individuals and appreciates assistance in locating obscure and little-known special collections in North Carolina.



NC LIVE

Brand new NC LIVE website

The newly redesigned NC LIVE website is now available for preview. The new website is fully functional, and is accessible from a link on the current

NC LIVE website <nclive.org>. During the preview period we will want your feedback on the new design—please take a few minutes to complete the online feedback form that will be linked from the home page of the new site.

Some highlights of the new site:

- brand new "look";
- improved and more intuitive site structure and layout;
- a special page tailored to kids and young adults; and
- the introduction of the EZ Search multidatabase search capability.

The redesign process was driven by information gathered from usability testing conducted on the current NC LIVE website and adherence to accessibility standards for users with disabilities. Questions or comments? Feel free to contact the NC LIVE Help Desk by sending an e-mail message to <help@nclive.org>.

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH)

More than 6,800 of the Library's 9,000 books-on-tape readers now have their books selected for them by the library's computer system.

Over the past three years, staff have improved subject coding for the most current portion of the library's collection. Library users have been interviewed to better determine what types of books each reader prefers. All of this information is entered into the computer. The computer also tracks what books a reader has already borrowed, as well as the reader's favorite authors and series. As a reader returns a book to the library, the computer uses the reader's known likes and dislikes to select a book to be sent. The book is mailed to the reader the next day (*more than 2,000 books are mailed each day!*).

Three years ago, LBPH readers often had to wait two to three weeks as all books were selected by library staff. In times of global State budget cuts and staff reductions, this effort has greatly improved timeliness of service while maintaining the quality of book selections for readers.